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Penkovsky story

off U.S. spy debate

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Washington

A lively debate has caught fire here on whether Soviet spying poses a serious threat to American security.

It centers on "the Penkovsky papers"—the story of a Soviet intelligence colonel, Oleg Penkovsky, who leaked Soviet secrets to the West for 16 months in 1961 and 1962.

Colonel Penkovsky's own diary is appearing in a series of 14 newspaper installments across the country. On Nov. 19, Doubleday is to publish the diary in book form.

The diary contains many details of how Soviet embassy staffs and visiting delegations are meticulously trained in spying.

Colonel Penkovsky, married to a general's daughter, moved in high Soviet society and had access to secret military and strategic plans against the West. He furnished valuable information, said here to have helped American planners during the Berlin crisis of 1961-62 and the Cuban missile crisis of October, 1962.

He was detected and executed in 1963.

Some members of the government here deplore publication of his story—which is being avidly followed by newspaper readers.

'Provocation' question

They say it will only feed the fears of the far right; it will also make the proposed consular treaty with the Soviet Union, as well as the cultural-exchange agreement, more difficult to obtain.

The consular treaty would pave the way for a small additional number of Soviet diplomats to enter the United States to staff consulates in major cities.

It is reported here that some Soviet sources are asking if publication of the papers is a "provocation" to the Soviet Government by Washington.

On the other hand, other experts welcome the "papers."

They praise the freedom of the British and American societies that causes men like Colonel Penkovsky to work for and publish in the West; this freedom, they say, is a powerful weapon in the fight against communism.

These experts point out that the Amer-



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Allen W. Dulles

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ican Government is well aware of Soviet spying and takes measures to counteract it. They do not believe that the consular treaty should be blocked.

"I think this is a useful book, and a valuable one," the former director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Allen W. Dulles, told The Christian Science Monitor.

Khrushchev policies

"No, I don't think it should lead to fear; nor should our diplomatic relations with Russia be reduced.

"It is the freedom of our society that attracts men like Penkovsky. Let Soviet people be exposed to this freedom, these outside influences, and we are more likely to have a peaceful world."

Colonel Penkovsky said he wanted to alert the West to then Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev's policies which, he said, were leading to war.

Asked for comment by this newspaper, United States officials said that the State

Department was generally aware of the contents of the book.

They refused to vouch for the authenticity of Colonel Penkovsky's statements, although other experts agree that his statements sound true.

Officials admit that "they have a plausible ring," and that "many of the observations contained therein have been borne out by events."

Much of what Colonel Penkovsky said about Mr. Khrushchev was "representative of Soviet opinion at the highest levels," officials said.

'On balance . . .'

The officials defended the cultural-change program and the American Government's measures to defeat Soviet espionage methods.

It had been long recognized, they said, that the main Soviet objective in the change program was to gather information, particularly technical data. But, they said, "we have taken measures" to ensure that the Soviet Union had made "only minimal progress."

American goals were different: They wanted to open up Soviet society, to begin an evolution in the country which "might result in more acceptable international behavior" from the Soviet Union.

While both sides had achieved some of their aims, "on balance, the net gain clearly rests with us."

Officials said it came as no surprise that Soviet personnel abroad collected intelligence. "Agencies in the United States responsible for internal security have indeed and are continuing to act to minimize Soviet gains."

Intelligence experts have said there was nothing particularly new in the Penkovskiy papers, although the details make interesting reading for the general public.

A spokesman for the CIA told this newspaper that the manuscript of the paper and a commentary by newsmen Frank Gibney had been given to them before publication.

CIA agents had examined it for material which might "compromise national security." The CIA will not say whether it believed the details in the papers to be accurate; there is every reason to believe, however, that they are.

10 The CIA did not approve of publication
but it made no move to prevent it. Whether
it deleted portions from the manuscript
not known.